

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**  
***Office of the Secretary of Transportation***  
**NEWS RELEASE**

RELEASE: IMMEDIATE  
CONTACT: Ralph Davis (804) 786-8032

Jan. 31, 2007

**TRANSPORTATION ACCOUNTABILITY COMMISSION HOLDS  
FIRST MEETING**

***Transportation Agencies Outline Current Performance-Management Initiatives***

RICHMOND—The Virginia Transportation Accountability Commission held its first meeting in Richmond today to assess the current state of performance management for the transportation system and for Virginia's transportation agencies. The 21-member commission, created in October by Gov. Timothy M. Kaine's Executive Order 37, is tasked with ensuring that the state's transportation agencies deliver maximum value for taxpayers, implement rigorous management standards and promote wise investments.

Commission members heard presentations by senior transportation agency executives outlining their department's strategic planning efforts, performance-management systems and recent accountability enhancement efforts. Agencies represented included the:

- Department of Aviation
- Department of Motor Vehicles
- Virginia Port Authority
- Department of Rail and Public Transportation
- Department of Transportation

"It is an important first step in our activities to assess the current actions being taken by these agencies to monitor performance and provide measurable improvements to the lives of all Virginians," said commission chairman James A. Squires, Norfolk Southern Corporation senior vice president. "We will use this information to help chart the course for future recommendations that create a framework for continuous evaluation of our transportation program.

Governor Kaine has tasked the Transportation Accountability Commission with:

- Reviewing Virginia's existing methods of promoting accountability and performance in transportation
- Identifying and recommending national best practices in accountability and performance for transportation
- Recommending quantifiable outcome measures for the major elements of the state's transportation program, including measures that incorporate effective land-use and transportation coordination
- Recommending performance standards for state transportation executives and agencies

"Measuring transportation performance is about more than just the operations of individual transportation agencies," said Ralph M. Davis, deputy secretary of transportation, who briefed the group about the commonwealth's transportation performance-monitoring efforts. "We now must

move to the next level and develop additional measures that address the core mission of transportation which is about safety, congestion, easy movement of people and goods, economic development and quality of life.

The Commission will make an interim report to the Governor and General Assembly by May 30, with a final report due Oct. 1. Additional information about the commission is available at <http://www.transportation.virginia.gov/Initiatives/TransportationAccountability/>

(END)